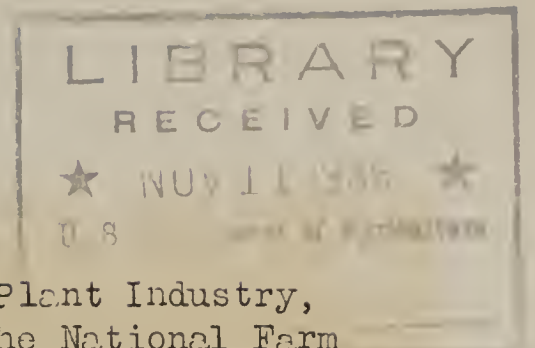


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THE GARDEN CALENDAR

A radio discussion by W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, broadcast by a network of 48 associate NBC radio stations, Monday, September 21, 1936.

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Hello folks: I took a little trip of about 1200 miles by automobile week before last and during this trip I saw some most wonderful gardens and orchards. I saw some other things that did not look so good, washed and gullied fields for example, unpainted and run-down buildings, fence-rows all grown up to bushes, farm implements sitting out in the weather, and so on, but I saw enough that was attractive to far outweigh the unattractive. A lot of those farm homes looked as if they would be a good place to spend a night or stop for dinner. With modern conveniences one can have all of the comforts of the city on the farm and a lot of things our city folks do not have. For example, those good gardens and orchards laden with fruit that I saw on my trip.

The point that I want to bring to you today is that it takes work and plenty of it to produce a good garden, care for a home orchard and have a nice lawn and shrubbery plantings about your home. Those things do not just happen and the first step is to get the soil in good condition. I have observed a great many cases where families moving from the city onto the land have attempted to grow crops on poor, wornout soil and as a result have met with bitter disappointment. The real time to get the land in shape is during the fall months and I am suggesting that now is the real opportunity to fertilize and prepare the ground for planting next spring. You southern folks are getting ready for your fall plantings right now and you have a somewhat different problem from your northern neighbors whose gardens freeze up during the winter. One suggestion is to plant all unused land to rye or barley or some similar crop during the winter to prevent the soil washing and blowing then in the early spring turn this crop under to add humus to the soil. Weeds that have not ripened seed, corn fodder, bean vines and any waste material that has not become badly diseased can be plowed or spaded under to add humus to the soil.

One observation that I made on my trip was that a great many home owners have neglected to properly prune their shrubbery, especially the shrubs that are growing about the house foundations. As a result many of these shrubs have grown entirely too tall. That brings up the question as to when these shrubs should be pruned. Evergreens may be sheared or pruned back any time during the growing season, preferably about the time they start in the spring. The shrubs like the spirea and the deutzia that bloom in the early spring should be pruned just after they finish blooming. Shrubs that bloom later in the season like the lilac and the large growing hydrangea should be pruned during the winter or while they are dormant. Bush roses require pruning after growth ceases in the fall or early in the spring before the buds start. Climbing roses, now please note the difference, should not

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be pruned until after they bloom during the late spring. The point is that the bush roses produce their flowers on new wood while the climbers produce their blossoms on the wood that grew the previous season. If you were to prune your climbing roses heavily during the winter you would be cutting off most of your crop of blossoms.

We are now approaching the time for planting bulbs for blooming next spring and I hopt to give you a few pointers on bulb planting next week.

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